

Board Communique: June 2023

The Energy Consumers Australia Board met via video conference on 15 June 2023.

Grants Meeting

Energy Consumers Australia's Grants Program received a number of quality applications for our Influence and Collaboration Grants. The Board met on 15 June to assess the applications received from a range of advocacy and research organisations across a variety of issues aimed at benefiting the long-term interests of energy consumers.

The Board wishes to congratulate the three successful applicants for their proposals. These projects are outlined below.

Our June 2023 Energy Consumer Sentiment Survey shows Australian consumers are increasingly worried about being able to afford the rising cost of energy, with the proportion of households and small businesses concerned about being able to pay their electricity bills rising to above 50 per cent. This is likely to increase with prices set to rise up to 30 per cent across the country from July. Many of the grants approved during this round reflect the increased urgency to assist vulnerable consumers as they navigate the energy transition to ensure they are adequately supported with the tools, information, and resources they require. This closely aligns with ECA's strategic priority that no one is left behind during the energy transition.

The following projects were approved for funding:

Victorian Council of Social Services

Ending the damaging energy hardship-health nexus

\$359,422

Good health and access to affordable energy are universal needs. However, there are significant and linked barriers to achieving both outcomes. This project will seek to establish new connections between energy market and health system actors, to better identify and support people experiencing ongoing energy-and-health hardship.

Sydney Community Forum

Voices for Power CALD Community Engagement in Energy Transition

\$150,000

The project aims to inform, educate, organise, and empower migrant communities in Sydney so they have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to actively participate in the energy transition.

Centre for New Energy Technologies Ltd (C4NET)

Enhanced System Planning – Victoria

\$300,000

Currently, there is no whole-of-system modelling framework for infrastructure development downstream of transmission. This collaborative project will bring ECA together with several universities, industry, policy makers, and the market operator to develop the foundations and fit-for-purpose modelling frameworks to help inform post-2030 electricity system planning.

The next grants round will open on 3 July. Applications close on 1 September 2023.

For more information about the Energy Consumers Australia Grants Program, how to apply and eligibility criteria visit the Energy Consumers Australia [website](#).

The website also has [Grants Priority Issues factsheets](#), which help potential grant applicants to understand the issues of interest to the organisation.